

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process of extracting oil from a substance, ~~the method~~ comprising the steps of:

- a) contacting the substance with a solvent comprising HFC 134a, and optionally one or more co-solvents, in a sealed first vessel;
- b) elevating the temperature of the sealed first vessel, and optionally causing agitation of the heated mixture;
- c) separating the resulting solution from the substance by transferring the solution to a second vessel;
- d) cooling at least the second vessel to release oil from solution; and
- e) separating the oil from the solution.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A process ~~as claimed in~~of claim 1, wherein the co-solvent is liquid at room temperature.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process ~~as claimed in~~of claim 1, wherein the co-solvent is selected from the group comprising: hydrocarbons; low boiling aliphatic esters; ketones; chlorinated, fluorinated and chlorofluorinated hydrocarbons; ethers; dimethyl formamide; tetrahydrofuran; dimethyl sulphoxide; alcohols; carboxylic acids; acetic anhydride; and nitriles; anhydrous liquefied ammonia; liquefied sulphur dioxide; nitric oxide; nitrogen dioxide; nitrous oxide, and hydrogen sulphide, carbon disulphide, nitromethane, and nitrobenzene.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process as claimed in ~~of~~ claim 3, wherein the co-solvent is selected from the group comprising: alkanes; benzene and its esters; acetates and butyrates; acetone; methyl isobutyl ketone; methyl ethyl ketone; dichloromethane; dichloro difluoromethane; dimethyl ether; diethyl ether; methyl alcohol; ethyl alcohol; n-propanol; isopropanol; acetic acid; formic acid; and acetonitrile (methyl cyanide). ~~anhydrous liquified ammonia, liquified sulphur dioxide, nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide, nitrous oxide; and hydrogen sulphide, carbon disulphide, nitromethane, and nitrobenzene.~~

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process as claimed in ~~of~~ claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein the co-solvent is selected from the group comprising: lower alkanes, lower alcohols (ie C₅ or lower), acetone, dimethyl ether and diethyl ether.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process as claimed in any preceding claim ~~according to any one of claims 1-5~~, wherein the sealed first vessel is heated to a temperature of from 40 to 60°C, inclusive in step (b).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process as claimed in any preceding claim ~~according to any one of claims 1-5~~, wherein the second vessel is cooled to a temperature in the range - 10° to 25°C, inclusive, in step (d).

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process as claimed in any preceding claim of ~~claim 1~~, wherein the substance is selected from the group comprising: seeds, nuts, ground nuts, ~~and oil shale or~~ and mud.

9. (Currently Amended) A sealable apparatus comprising first and second vessels, each vessel having at least one closable valve through which solvent may pass, wherein the first and second vessel are in fluid communication with one another by means of the closable valves, wherein the first vessel is adapted to receive a substance from which oil is to be extracted and incorporates a filtering device to prevent passage of the substance out of the first vessel

through the or each valve, and wherein, during operation, a solvent comprising HFC 134a together with one or more optional co-solvents is provided in the first vessel and may be transferred between the first and second vessels via the or each valve.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus as claimed in~~ The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the or each valve is a one way valve and the first and second vessels each have an inlet valve and an outlet valve, the apparatus being arranged in the form of a circuit so that the outlet valve of the first vessel is connected to the inlet valve of the second vessel, and the outlet valve of the second vessel is connected to the inlet valve of the first vessel, so that the flow of solvent around the circuit occurs in one direction only.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~9 or~~ 10, wherein the first vessel is provided with a heating means and/or is associated on its inlet side with means for heating incoming solvent.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus as claimed in any of claims 9 to 11~~ The apparatus of claim 10 or 11, wherein the apparatus further includes a reservoir of additional solvent and means for introducing or removing solvent from the circuit, the point of addition or removal of solvent from the circuit preferably being between the outlet side of the second vessel and the inlet side of the first vessel.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus as claimed in any of claims 9 to 12~~ The apparatus of claim 10 or 11, wherein the apparatus further includes means for withdrawing from the second vessel directly and/or from the inlet side of the second vessel oil which has separated from the solvent.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus as claimed in any of claims 9 to 13~~ The apparatus of claim 10 or 11, wherein the apparatus ~~includes~~ further comprises means for determining the pressure in the circuit and/or the temperatures of the first and second vessels.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus as claimed in any of~~ The apparatus according to any one of claims 9 to 15 ~~9-11~~, wherein the first and second vessels are transparent pressure vessels capable of withstanding pressures of not more than 25 bar.

16. (New) The apparatus according to any one of claims 9-11, having a solvent comprising HFC 134a together with one or more optional co-solvents provided in the first vessel.